

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM

15 June 1951

TO : Comptroller

FROM : Finance Division

SUBJECT: Erroneous Payment of Per Diem

1. Attached is a memorandum from the Office of Special Operations, which sets forth the circumstances surrounding an erroneous payment of per diem made by the Finance Division. This case is most unusual in that the Office of Special Operations approves the payment as made and specifies that the action taken, although technically in error, was in fact that which was intended by OSO. Accordingly, we are requested to make no collection.
2. There is no excuse for the error in making this payment. The travel order which was signed by me clearly sets forth that no per diem is to be paid; however, my action in signing such restriction does not reflect my determination in the case. It simply reflects a policy that we would pay no per diem or would reduce per diem payments whenever any official of the Agency indicated such action should be taken.
3. On 23 October 1950, I inserted a memorandum into the record (copy attached), which explains, at least in part, the confusion which then existed in the payment of per diem. The Assistant Comptroller is well aware of the efforts of the Finance Division over the period of the last eighteen months to establish better procedures for the handling of per diem, especially per diem payments to new employees. This matter has finally come to the attention of Agency officials as a result of action by the Task Force. We are advised that an amendment of the regulations is now in the hands of Legal Counsel and will be forthcoming shortly.
4. We regret the error on the part of the Finance Division, but agree with the Office of Special Operations that the payment appears to reflect the intent of properly authorized officials.
5. We request your determination as to whether or not we should let the payment stand.

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[Redacted]
Acting Chief, Finance Division

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